

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

OES-07 HEW-04 /118 W

-----047504 090431Z /17

R 081017Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9204

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT PASS AID/ASIA AND AID/OFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, BM, BG, SREF

SUBJ: MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM BURMA

REF: DACCA 2854

1. UNDP REPRESENTATIVE ZAGORIN PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF WHO, UNICEF AND WFP VISITED THE REFUGEE AREAS OVER THE WEEKEND MAY 6-7. ZAGORIN INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR MAY 8 THAT, WHEREAS HE HAD NO WAY OF CHECKING IN DETAIL, HE ACCEPTED THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT (BDG) STATEMENT THAT IT HAD REGISTERED 70,000 REFUGEES AND THAT SOME 25,000 TO 30,000 REMAINED TO BE REGISTERED. ZAGORIN, WHO HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT ZIA DECIDED TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE LAST WEEK, IS STILL AWAITING A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST. HE IS, HOWEVER, MAKING PRELIMINARY ARRANGMENTS SO THAT HE CAN REACT MORE RAPIDLY. HE IS PREPARED TO COORDINATE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS IF SUCH COORDINATION BECOMES NECESSARY.

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2. ZAGORIN REPORTED THAT REFUGEES WERE BEING FED AND PROVIDED WITH BASIC MEDICAL CARE. HOWEVER, ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHELTER ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE (A DRIVING RAIN DURING ZAGORIN'S VISIT DEMONSTRATED THAT MANY OF THE CAMPS HAD BEEN LOCATED IN LOW AREAS SUBJECT TO FLOODING). MANY REFUGEES HAVE NO SHELTER AT ALL; OTHERS ARE CRAMMED INTO SHELTERED

AREAS. SANITATION IS SO POOR AS TO ENDANGER WATER SUPPLY.
ZAGORIN ANTICIPATES A HIGH INSTANCE OF DIARRHEAL DISEASES
AND PNEUMONIA.

3. ACCORDING TO ZAGORIN, WFP HAS FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE
REGION TO SUPPLY CURRENT NUMBERS OF REFUGEES FOR TWO MONTHS.
UNICEF HAS A LOCAL CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE SOURCES OF
DRINKING WATER AND, WITH WHO, CAN OFFER MEDICAL HELP WHICH
ZAGORIN BELIEVES WILL BE NEEDED.

4. ZAGORIN IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF CATEGORIZATION
OF THE REFUGEES AND SAYS THAT THE BDG IS SIMILARLY AWARE.
HE REPORTS THAT UNHCR IS SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO LOOK
INTO THE SITUATION. ZAGORIN HIMSELF REPRESENTS THE UNHCR
IN DACCA.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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